Dear Mr. Michelson:

In confirmation of our telephone conversation on Tuesday, December 6, 1966, the following are the terms under which I would agree to appear on a nationally televised program dealing with the Warren Commission and its critics:

1. The program would be held on a university campus and would be open to the general public.

2. The program would be in the form of a symposium to last for two or three days and to include the principle draftsman of all chapters of the Warren Commission report together with the critics of the commission.

3. The symposium would be divided into sections in which the draftsman of a particular portion of the Warren Commission report would have an opporutnity to face the critics of the report on the particular issues with which that draftsman was concerned.

4. For each area of confrontation between a draftsman of the report and the Warren Commission critics, questions would be carefully prepared in advance and submitted both to the draftsman and to the critic. The draftsman would have ample time to present all the evidence available on each of the prepared questions, the critics would have time to attack the evidence presented by the draftsman, and the draftsman would have an opportunity to rebuke the critics. Law professors in the areas of criminal law and public administration would be invited to attend the symposium and a genuine effort would be attempted to get attendance from such professors employed at major law schools in the country.

5. An administrator would be appointed to arrange for the program who would be a respected law professor or news media representative. The administrator would agree to diligently familiarize himself with all the issues that have been raised and to attempt objectively to specify questions for consideration.

6. Members of the Commission staff who have agreed to appear on such a program would be given at least thirty days notice of all questions to be presented by the administrator so that adequate time would be available to gather the information bearing upon such questions.

7. No salaries would be paid to any participant on the program except to the administrator for the reasonable cost of his time. Other participants would be paid only for their expenses and a small honorarium. Profits or proceeds form advertising over and above expenses to the sponsor would be donated to the Kennedy Library or some other foundation agreed upon by the staff of the Warren Commission.

As you know, I have discussed such a program as outlined with other members of the Warren Commission Staff and I would expect that at least three or four other members of the staff would show a willingness to participate. I must underscore, however, that I would not be willing to participate in such a program unless the principle draftsman of each of the sections of the report to be examined agree to and did appear on such a program. In that way the public would have an opportunity to hear the explanations of the most authorative members of the Commission staff on each of the issues which might be presented for consideration.

Sincerely,

Burt W. Griffin
Director